

OPEN LETTERS.

THE TROPICAL LABORATORY COMMISSION.

To the Editors of the Botanical Gazette:—Dr. J. E. Humphrey, accompanied by a number of advanced students in zoology from Johns Hopkins University, will carry on some investigations in the vicinity of Port Antonio, Jamaica, during the ensuing season, and he has kindly agreed to cooperate with the commission in the examination of that island. His previous experience in Jamaica will enable him to render the commission important and valuable aid.

In the arrangement of plans for the work of the commission, provision will be made for a repetition of a portion of the tour of investigation during the coming winter, in order to appreciate more fully the climatic possibilities of the more promising localities. This will, of course, slightly delay the final selection of a site, but not the organization of the laboratory.

The following quotation from the *Journal of Botany* for March will serve to illustrate the attitude of the British botanists in the matter:

"A botanical laboratory in the western tropics has long been greatly needed, and we have much pleasure in announcing that the establishment of such an institution is completely assured. . . . It is believed that cordial cooperation on the part of botanists of this country would be welcomed. In order to secure this cooperation we venture to recommend one of the Lesser Antilles as the site. These islands are only a fortnight from London, and their botanical attractions for future work are great. . . . A site in Mexico, for example, though much to be recommended on other grounds, would be a hindrance to cooperation on the part of botanists in this country on account of the length of the journey. We heartily congratulate American botanists on this manifestation of their enterprise, and wish it the success it undoubtedly deserves."—D. T. MACDOUGAL, *University of Minnesota*.